

V. ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROLS AND IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS

State and Municipal Adoption of the Thoroughfare Plan

Chapter 136, Article 3A, Section 136-66.2 of the General Statutes of North Carolina provides that after development of a thoroughfare plan, the plan may be adopted by the governing body of the municipality and the Department of Transportation to serve as the basis for future street and highway improvements. The General Statutes also require that, as part of the plan, the governing body of the municipality and Department of Transportation shall reach agreement on responsibilities for existing and proposed streets and highways included in the plan. Facilities which are designated a State responsibility will be constructed and maintained by the Division of Highways. Facilities which are designated a municipal responsibility will be constructed and maintained by the municipality.

After mutual plan adoption, the Department of Transportation will initiate negotiations leading to determining which of the existing and proposed thoroughfares will be a Department responsibility and which will be a municipal responsibility. Chapter 136, Article 3A, Section 136-66.1 of the General Statutes provides guidance in the delineation of responsibilities. In summary, these statutes provide that the Department of Transportation shall be responsible for those facilities that serve volumes of through traffic and traffic from outside the area to major business, industrial, governmental, and institutional destinations located inside the municipality. The municipality is responsible for those facilities that serve primarily internal travel.

Unless implementation is an integral part of the transportation planning process, the effort and expense associated with developing a plan is lost. To neglect the implementation process is a three-fold loss - the loss of the capital expenditures used in developing a plan, the opportunity cost of the capital expenditures, and more importantly the loss of the benefits that would accrue from an improved transportation system.

Administrative controls and implementation tools that can aid in the implementation process are generally available to municipalities through Federal and State Legislation. These controls and tools will be discussed in this chapter. They include: Subdivision Regulations, Zoning Ordinances, Official Maps, Urban Renewal, Capital Improvements Programs, and Development Reviews. Generally two issues play a major role in the implementation process - available finances and citizen involvement. Effective use of the controls and tools listed above are indicative of good planning and minimize the effects of limited finances and negative citizen reaction to specific elements of a plan. It is through good planning that maximum use is made of every available dollar and that citizen involvement and approval of the transportation plan is obtained.